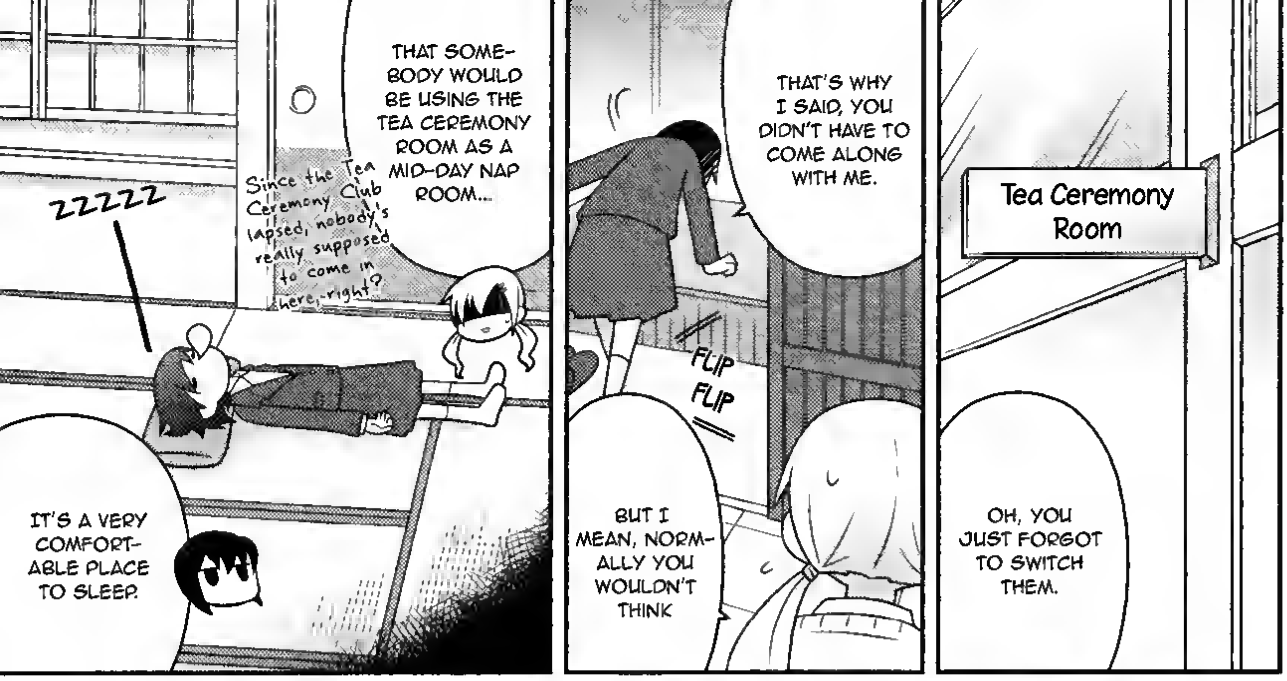
RimiFure
リミフレ
(Limited-Time Friend)
FUKASAKU EMI
really existed in this world.
I always knew it.
That "doll-like girls"
SOMEBODY HID HER SCHOOL SHOES...?
BUT UPON THAT GIRL'S FEET WERE A PAIR OF SLIPPERS.
DON'T TELL ME...
Ah!
Tremble
Tremble
SLIP
YIKES! SO TINY! SO CUTE!!
AND THOSE RIGID LITTLE STEPS SHE WALKS WITH!
BEFORE I KNEW IT,
I HAD DROPPED THE LUNCHBOX I WAS EATING
AND CALLED AFTER HER.

Limited-Time Friend

リミ・フレ

ふかざくえみ

presented by EMI FUKASAKU


ZZZZZ
Since the Tea Ceremony Club lapsed, nobody's really supposed to come in here, right?
THAT SOMEBODY WOULD BE USING THE TEA CEREMONY ROOM AS A MID-DAY NAP ROOM...
IT'S A VERY COMFORTABLE PLACE TO SLEEP.
THAT'S WHY I SAID, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME ALONG WITH ME.
FLIP FLIP
BUT I MEAN, NORMALLY YOU WOULDN'T THINK
Tea Ceremony Room
OH, YOU JUST FORGOT TO SWITCH THEM.

This girl—

or I should say, this *individual*—

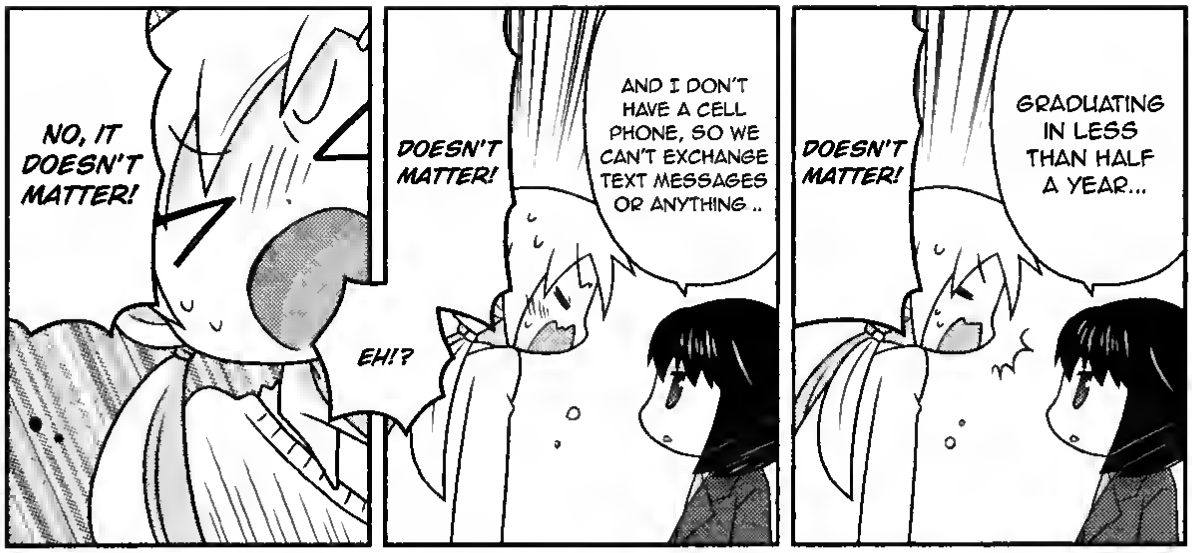
isn't merely a tiny, cute, as-you-like-it fellow—

I wonder, what can I do?...
PL-PLEASE JUST HOLD ON A SECOND!
WHAT IS IT?
IF YOU'RE DONE SPEAKING WITH ME, I'LL BE GOING NOW.
Seniors Green
Juniors Yellow
Freshmen Red
SHE'S A YOUNG WOMAN TWO YEARS MY SENIOR!
AHHHH
I THOUGHT FOR SURE....

WHAT CAN I DO? I...
I REALLY WANT TO KNOW MORE
SUCH A TINY, CUTE, AS-YOU-LIKE-IT UPPERCLASSMAN...
Though for all that, she still wears her uniform more properly than me, a freshman.
UMM...
THERE WAS JUST ONE OTHER THING...

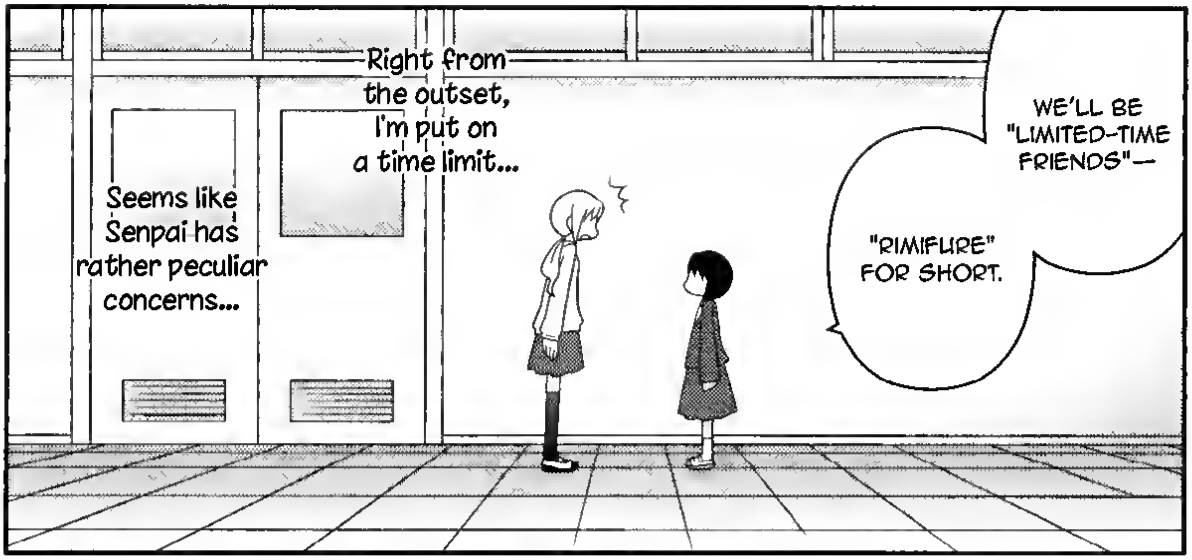
UM,
IT'S JUST, WELL,
ABOUT THIS PERSON!

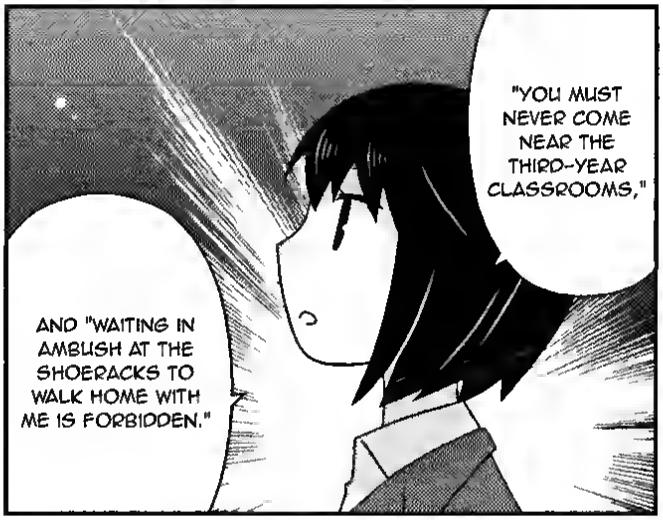
I'D LIKE YOU TO PLEASE BECOME MY FRIEND.
Even though we only met ten-odd minutes ago...
But if I don't say this much, that'll be it, for sure—
She thinks I'm weird, right?
I said it.
I really went and said it.
I'll never see her again.
....I'M

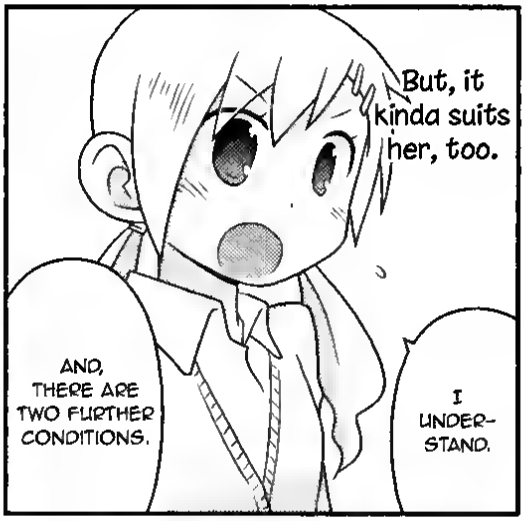

GRADUATING IN LESS THAN HALF A YEAR...
DOESN'T MATTER!
AND I DON'T HAVE A CELL PHONE, SO WE CAN'T EXCHANGE TEXT MESSAGES OR ANYTHING ..
EH!?
DOESN'T MATTER!
NO, IT DOESN'T MATTER!

FOR HALF A YEAR ONLY.

THEN, HOW ABOUT WE DO THIS?


Seems like Senpai has rather peculiar concerns...
Right from the outset, I'm put on a time limit...
WE'LL BE "LIMITED-TIME FRIENDS"—
"RIMIFURE" FOR SHORT.

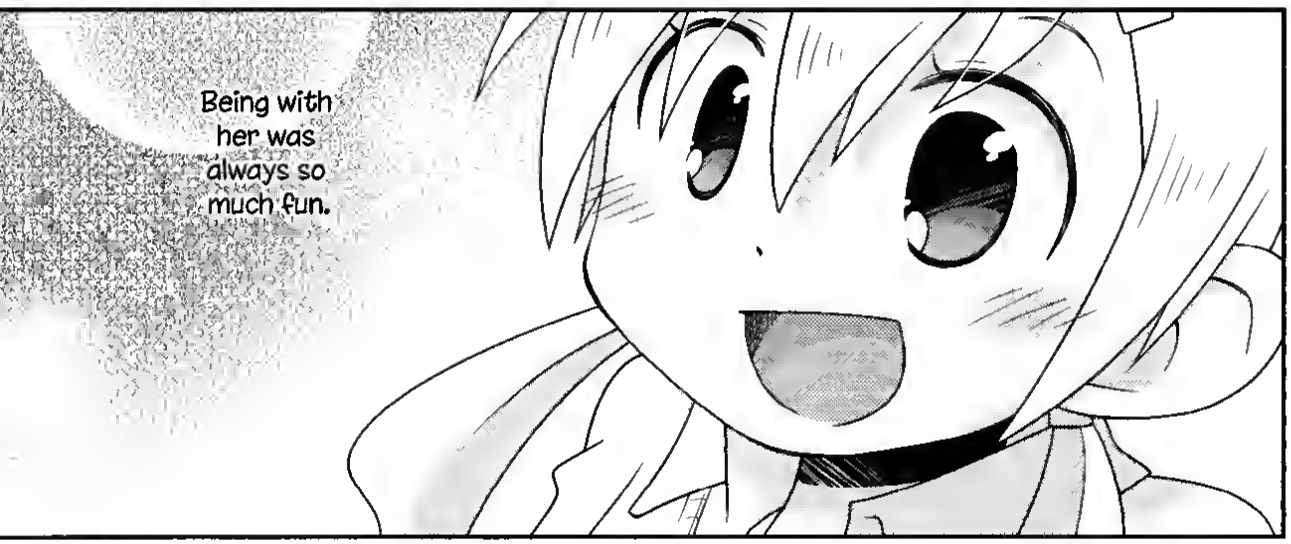

"YOU MUST NEVER COME NEAR THE THIRD-YEAR CLASSROOMS,"
AND "WAITING IN AMBUSH AT THE SHOERACKS TO WALK HOME WITH ME IS FORBIDDEN."

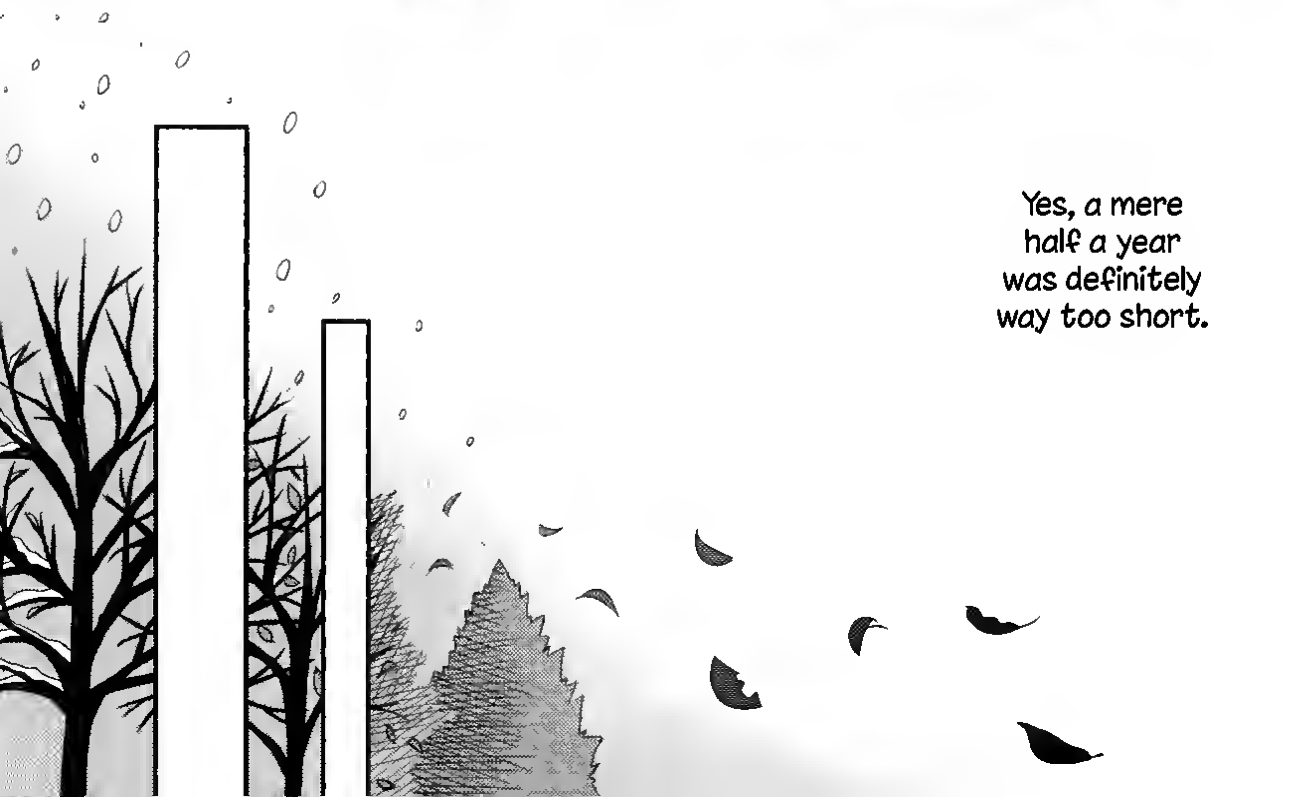

But, it kinda suits her, too.
I UNDER-STAND.
AND, THERE ARE TWO FURTHER CONDITIONS.

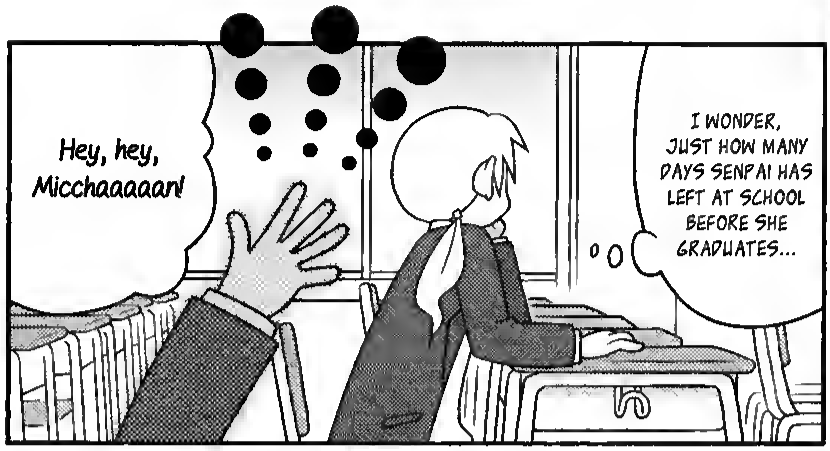
HM...?
IS THIS JUST A ROUNDABOUT WAY OF SHOOT-ING ME DOWN, AFTER ALL?
IN EXCHANGE FOR THAT,

Yikes...
SHE SMILED.
Anytime we happen to meet anywhere else, we can talk and talk and talk.
I see.
Senpai must be the sort of person who holds things like fate, luck, and accident very dear.
AFTER THAT, I FOUND MYSELF
MEETING HER WAY MORE OFTEN THAN I EXPECTED.
SO MUCH THAT I GRADUALLY CEASED TO WORRY ABOUT THOSE "CONDITIONS."

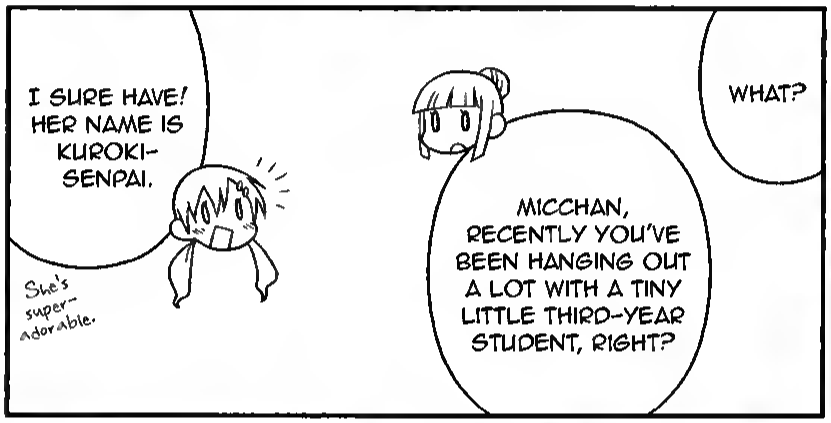
SENPAI GAVE OFF A SENSE OF DISTANCE MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THE GIRLS IN MY CLASS—
LIKE SHE HAD AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT AURA.

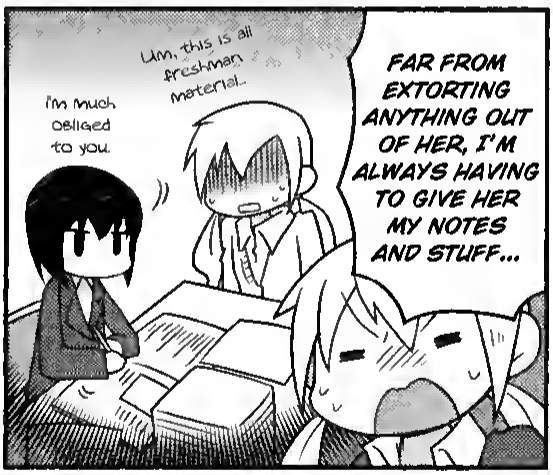

Being with her was always so much fun.


Yes, a mere half a year was definitely way too short.


Hey, hey, Micchaaaaan!
I WONDER, JUST HOW MANY DAYS SENPAI HAS LEFT AT SCHOOL BEFORE SHE GRADUATES...

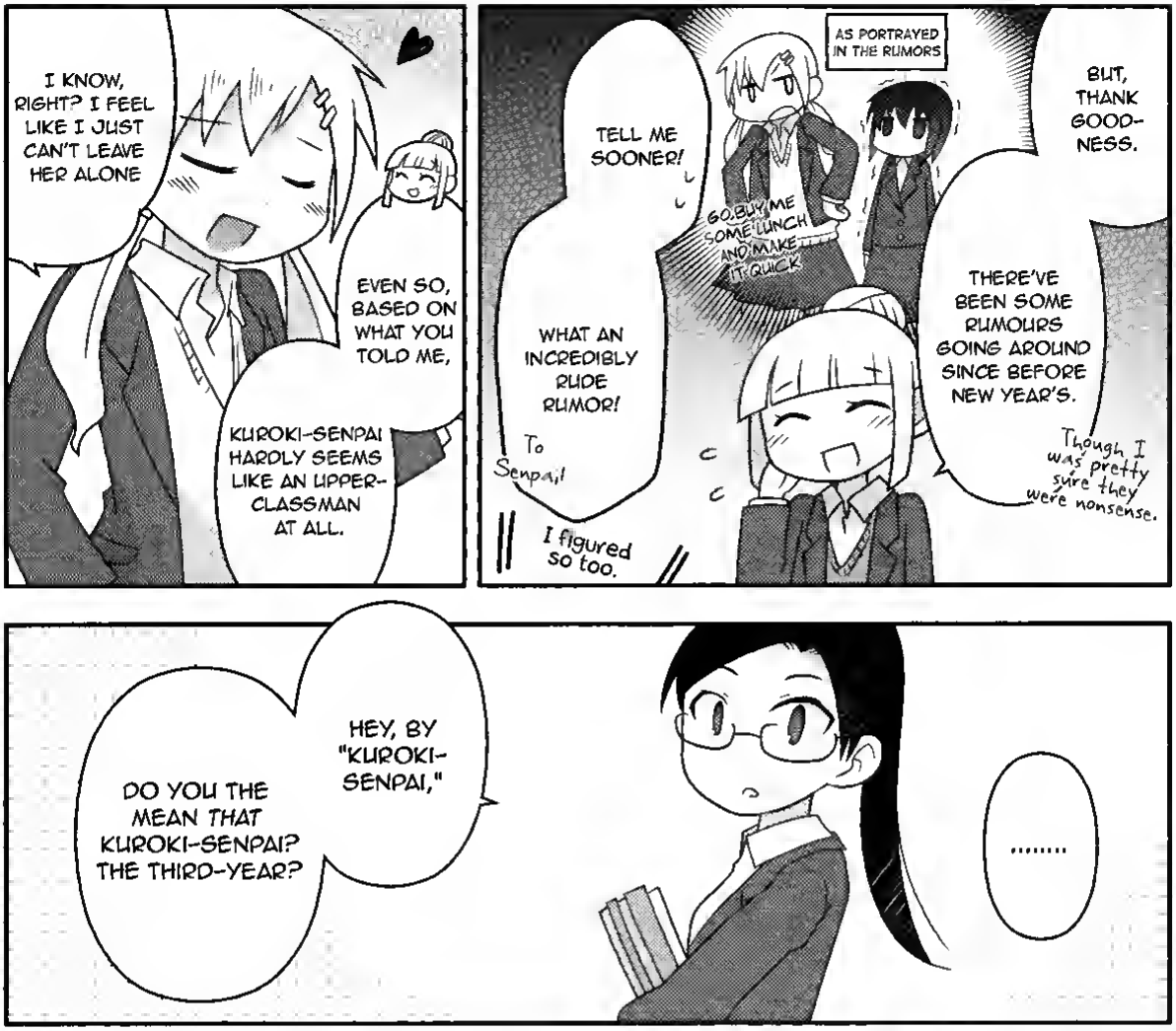
Good morning.
Sure is cold, huh?
Snow's pretty deep.


I SURE HAVE! HER NAME IS KUROKI-SENPAI.
She's super-adorable.
WHAT?
MICCHAN, RECENTLY YOU'VE BEEN HANGING OUT A LOT WITH A TINY LITTLE THIRD-YEAR STUDENT, RIGHT?

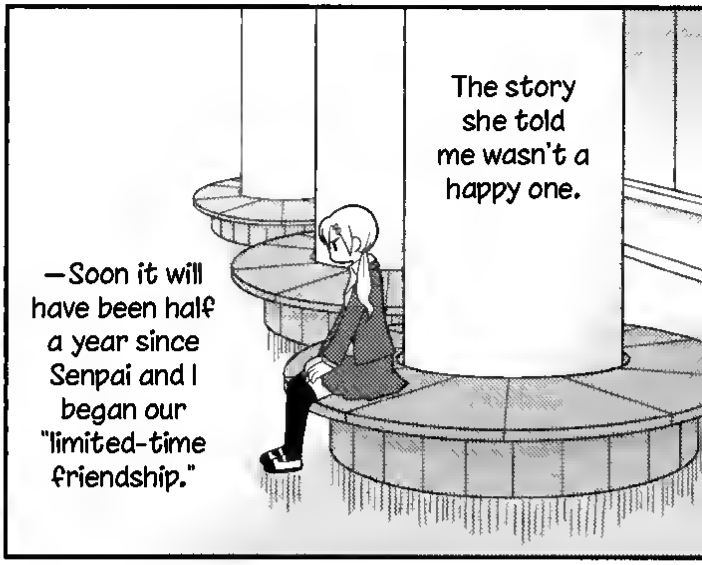

I'm much obliged to you.
Um, this is all freshman material.
FAR FROM EXTORTING ANYTHING OUT OF HER, I'M ALWAYS HAVING TO GIVE HER MY NOTES AND STUFF...

WHOOSH
PAIN
AUUUU
WAHH!!
Micchan, that's a little...
AND SINCE SHE FALLS A LOT, I'M ALWAYS HAVING TO DO THE "PAIN, PAIN, FLY AWAY" THING...

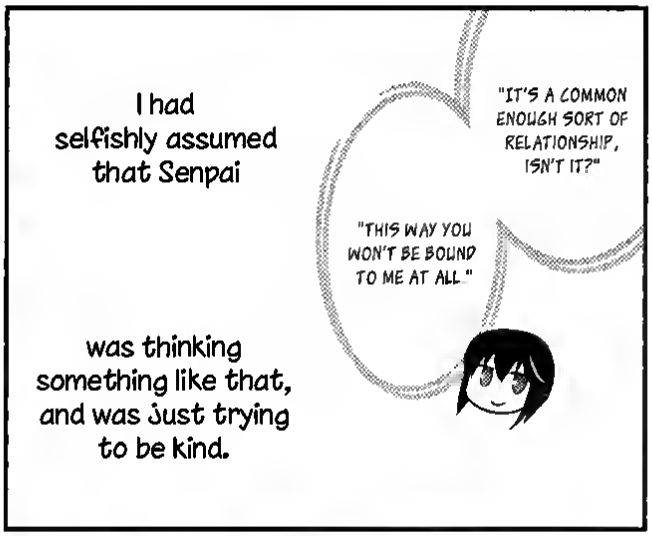
SURELY, YOU HAVEN'T TAKEN UP SOMETHING LIKE EXTORTION?
OF COURSE NOT!!
Eh
!?
mutter


I KNOW, RIGHT? I FEEL LIKE I JUST CAN'T LEAVE HER ALONE
EVEN SO, BASED ON WHAT YOU TOLD ME,
KUROKI-SENPAI HARDLY SEEMS LIKE AN UPPER-CLASSMAN AT ALL.
AS PORTRAYED IN THE RUMORS
BUT, THANK GOOD-NESS.
THERE'VE BEEN SOME RUMOURS GOING AROUND SINCE BEFORE NEW YEAR'S.
Though, I was pretty sure they were nonsense.
TELL ME SOONER!
GO BUY ME SOME LUNCH AND MAKE IT QUICK
WHAT AN INCREDIBLY RUDE RUMOR!
To Senpai!
I figured so too.
HEY, BY "KUROKI-SENPAI,"
DO YOU THE MEAN THAT KUROKI-SENPAI? THE THIRD-YEAR?
.....
"THAT" KUROKI-SENPAI...?

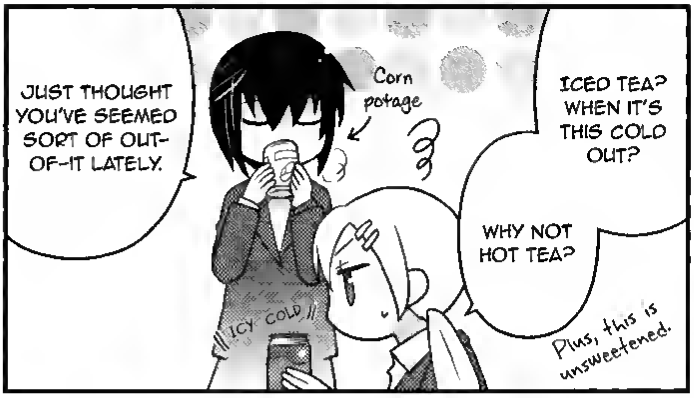
The promised "half a year."

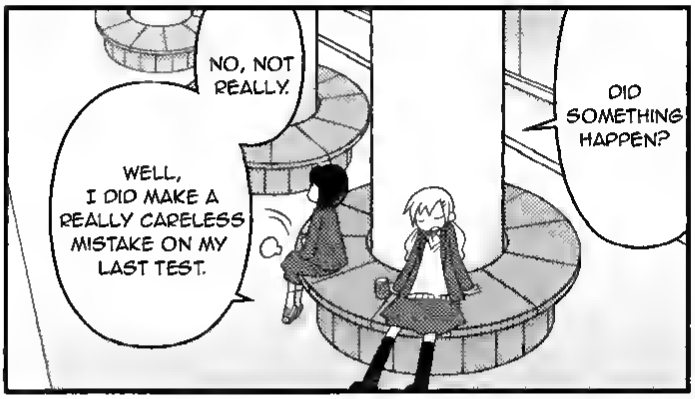

—Soon it will have been half a year since Senpai and I began our "limited-time friendship."
The story she told me wasn't a happy one.

But...
THAT THIRD-YEAR STUDENT, KUROKI-SENPAI?
IF MEMORY SERVES ME CORRECTLY, SHE...

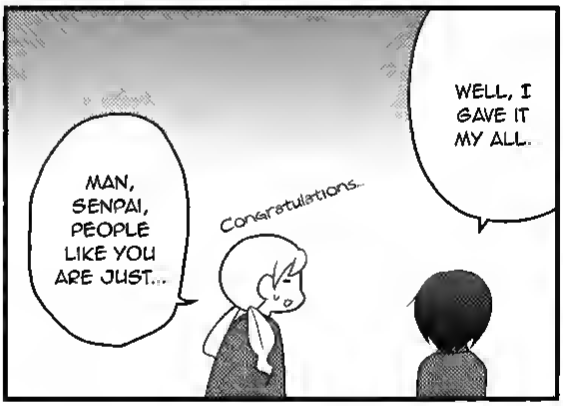

I had selfishly assumed that Senpai
was thinking something like that, and was just trying to be kind.
"IT'S A COMMON ENOUGH SORT OF RELATIONSHIP, ISN'T IT?"
"THIS WAY YOU WON'T BE BOUND TO ME AT ALL."

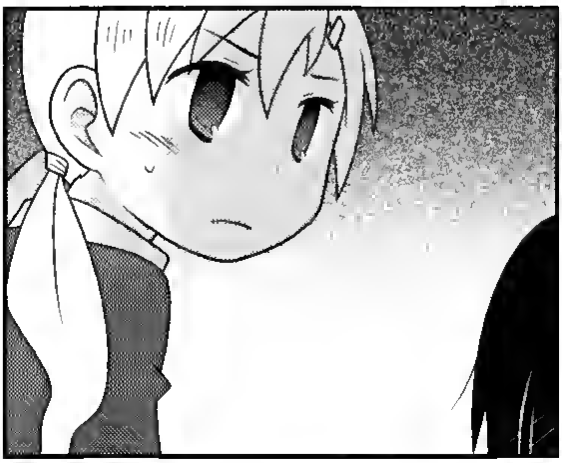
If what she told me was true,
Senpai is...


JUST THOUGHT YOU'VE SEEMED SORT OF OUT-OF-IT LATELY.
Corn potage
ICY COLD
ICED TEA? WHEN IT'S THIS COLD OUT?
WHY NOT HOT TEA?
Plus, this is unsweetened.


NO, NOT REALLY.
WELL, I DID MAKE A REALLY CARELESS MISTAKE ON MY LAST TEST.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

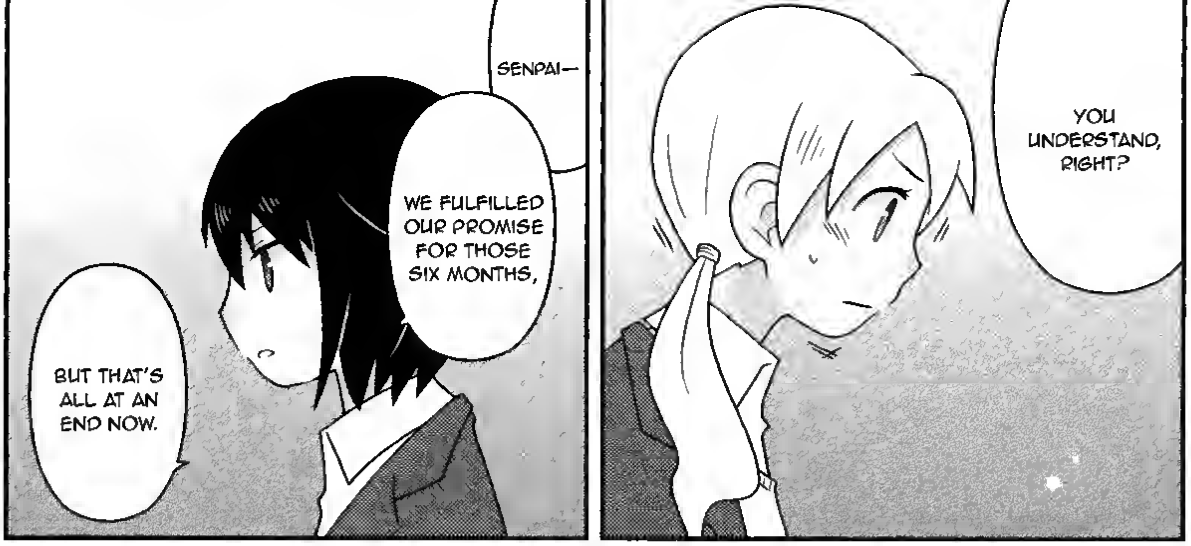
HERE YOU GO.
Plip
AGH!
JUMP

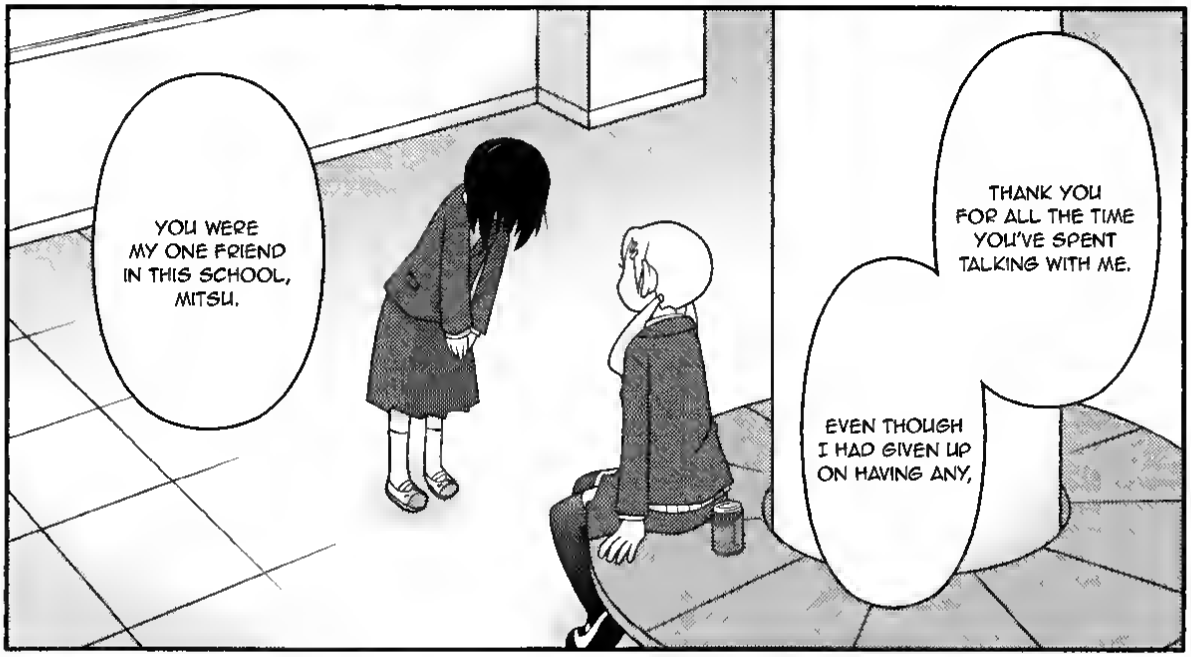

WELL, I GAVE IT MY ALL.
Congratulations...
MAN, SENPAI, PEOPLE LIKE YOU ARE JUST...

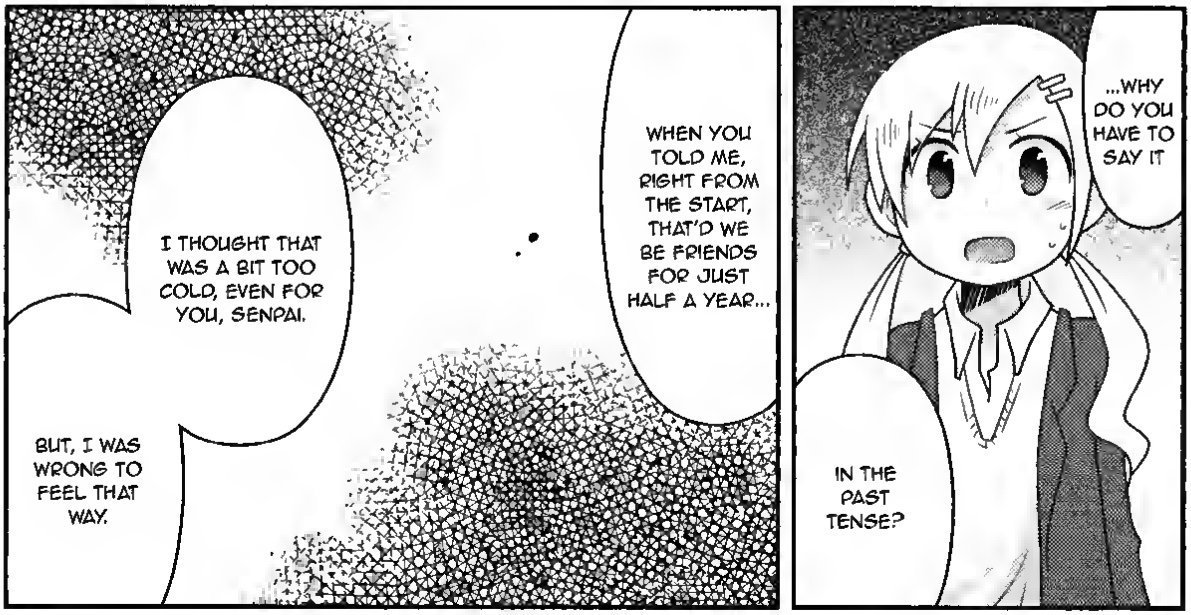


SPEAKING OF TESTS, I PASSED MY COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM!
NO WAY!?
YOU DID!? UP UNTIL LAST MONTH I WAS STILL TEACHING YOU STUFF FROM FRESHMAN YEAR!
Flip

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU MISSED AN ENTIRE YEAR OF SCHOOL DUE TO ILLNESS?
AND WHEN YOU TOLD ME NOT TO COME NEAR THE THIRD-YEAR CLASSROOMS...
WAS THAT SO I WOULDN'T FIND OUT THAT YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO MAKE ANY FRIENDS SINCE RETURNING TO SCHOOL?
AND THE THING ABOUT NOT MEETING YOU AFTER SCHOOL—
WAS THAT BECAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS LEAVING EARLY, AND YOUR FAMILY HAS TO DRIVE HERE TO PICK—
IF YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT MUCH,

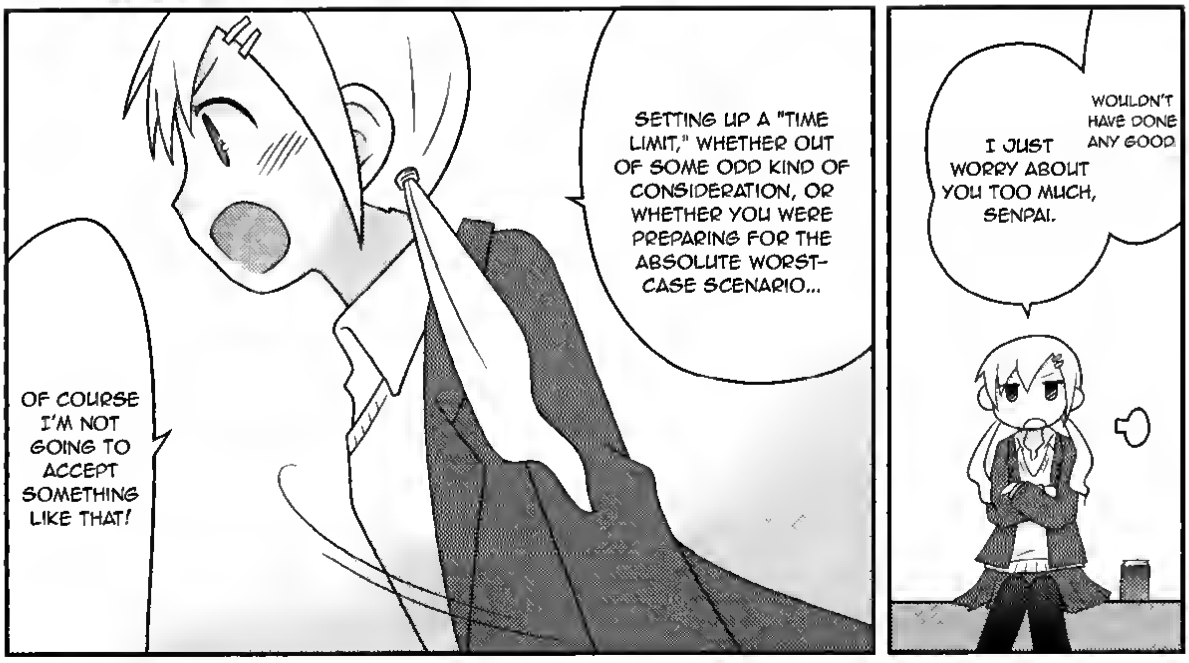

SENPAI—
WE FULFILLED OUR PROMISE FOR THOSE SIX MONTHS,
BUT THAT'S ALL AT AN END NOW.
YOU UNDERSTAND, RIGHT?


YOU WERE MY ONE FRIEND IN THIS SCHOOL, MITSU.
THANK YOU FOR ALL THE TIME YOU'VE SPENT TALKING WITH ME.
EVEN THOUGH I HAD GIVEN UP ON HAVING ANY,


I THOUGHT THAT WAS A BIT TOO COLD, EVEN FOR YOU, SENPAI.
BUT, I WAS WRONG TO FEEL THAT WAY.
WHEN YOU TOLD ME, RIGHT FROM THE START, THAT'D WE BE FRIENDS FOR JUST HALF A YEAR...
...WHY DO YOU HAVE TO SAY IT IN THE PAST TENSE?

RIGHT AFTER GRADUATION, YOU'RE GOING IN FOR A REALLY BIG OPERATION. ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

...I SHOULD HAVE ADDED
ANOTHER CONDITION TO OUR AGREEMENT. "NO PRYING ALLOWED."

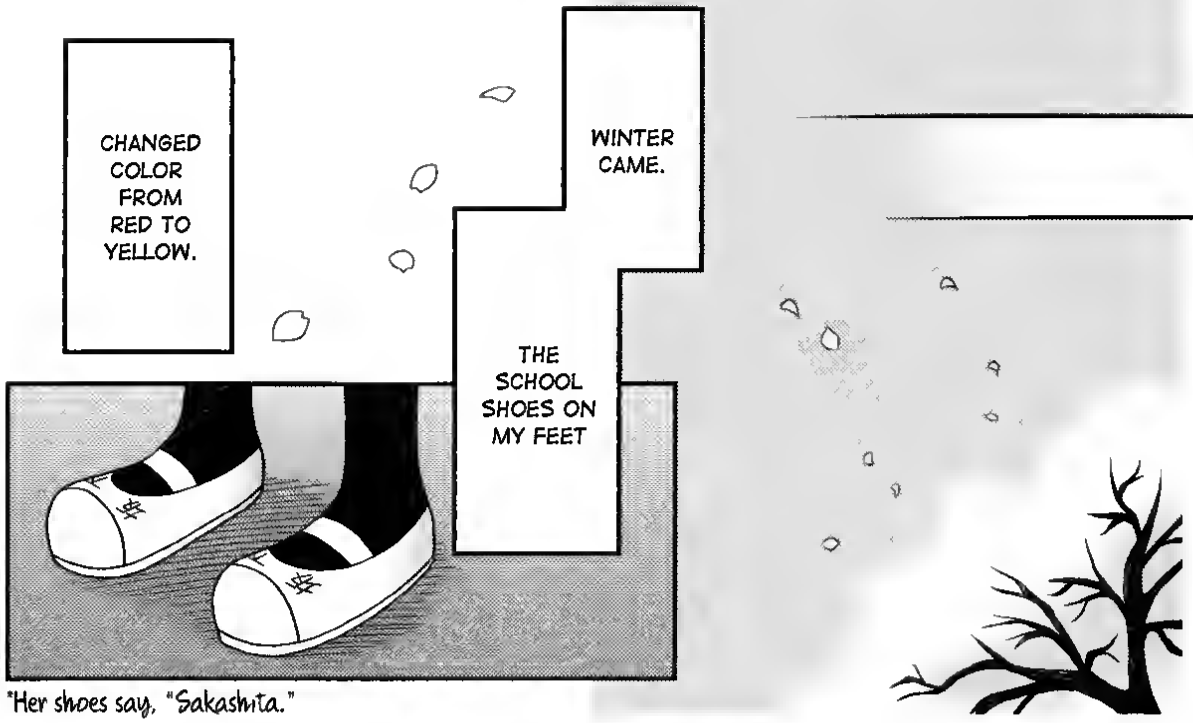

SETTING UP A "TIME LIMIT," WHETHER OUT OF SOME ODD KIND OF CONSIDERATION, OR WHETHER YOU WERE PREPARING FOR THE ABSOLUTE WORST-CASE SCENARIO...
OF COURSE I'M NOT GOING TO ACCEPT SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
I JUST WORRY ABOUT YOU TOO MUCH, SENPAI.
WOULDN'T HAVE DONE ANY GOOD.

IT MAY BE THAT THE ONLY THING I CAN REALLY DO IS WAIT...
I'M NOT GOING TO QUIT BEING YOUR FRIEND ONCE YOU GRADUATE.
IT MAY BE THAT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR ILLNESS,
BUT EVEN SO, I'LL WAIT FOR YOU!

AFTER THAT, SENPAI,
WITH HER HEAD STILL BOWED LOW,

MURMURED "THANK YOU" IN A VERY TINY VOICE.

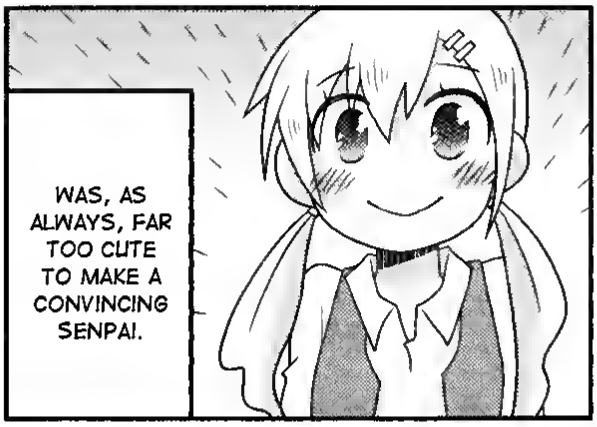
I NEVER SAW HER IN SCHOOL AGAIN.

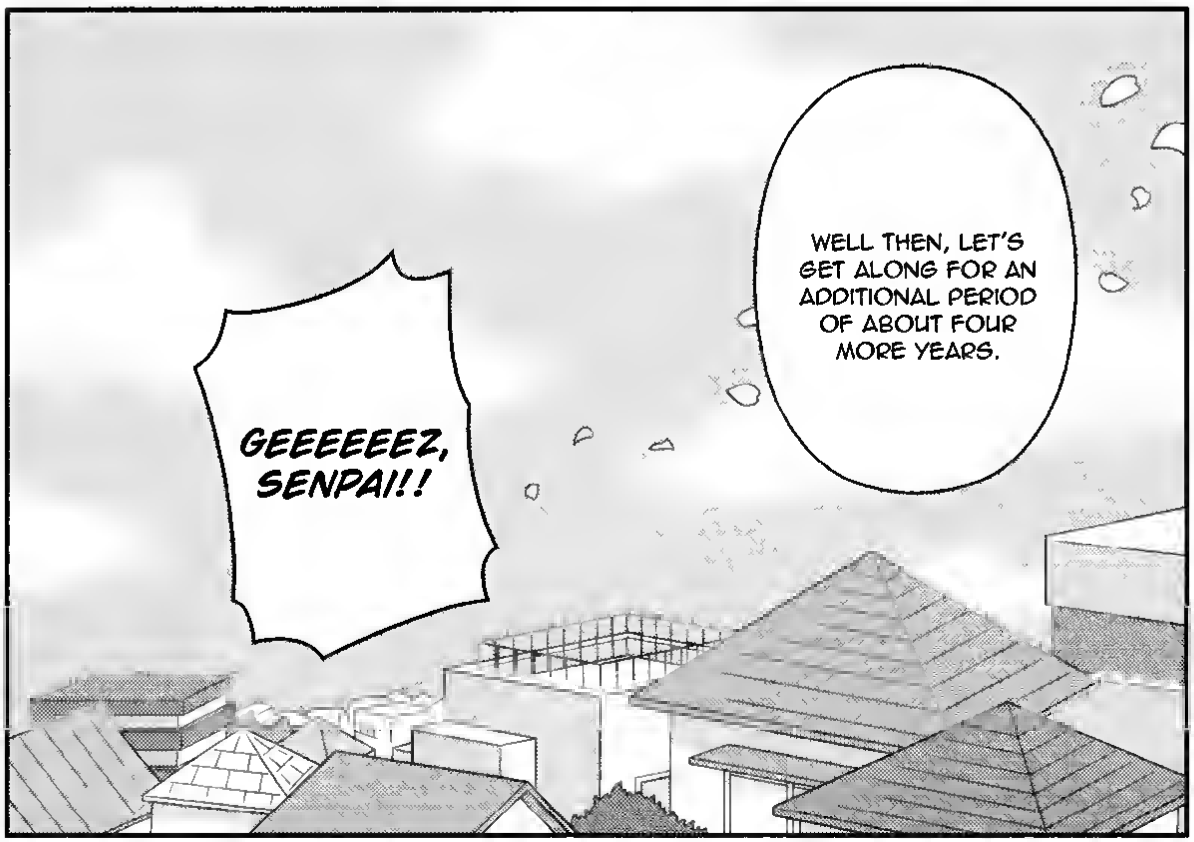


"Her shoes say, "Sakashita."

SENPAI, SMILING A LITTLE BIT AWK-WARDLY,

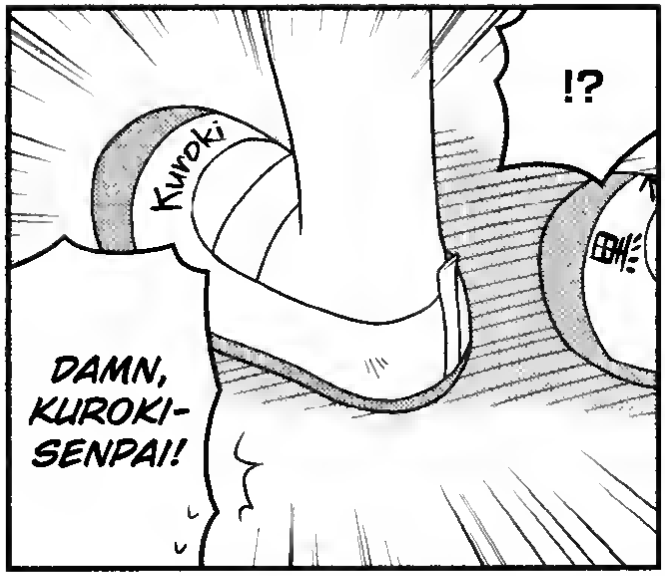
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT! THE PLACE SENPAI MOVED INTO WAS RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET FROM ME.


WAS, AS ALWAYS, FAR TOO CUTE TO MAKE A CONVINCING SENPAI.


WELL THEN, LET'S GET ALONG FOR AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF ABOUT FOUR MORE YEARS.
GEEEEEEZ, SENPAI!!

End

158
140



Limited-Time Friend

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